recorded the time. You corrected it and sent a notice. We will take it as the first notice. Then it was that you changed the date.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It was after this that two of the official members wrote to me that the date fixed upon was inconvenient to them, and that they wanted a change in the date.

President.—After the second date was fixed, did any member write to you that the date fixed upon for the meeting was inconvenient for him?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—One of the non-official members, after some days, wrote to me that the date was inconvenient for him.

President.—Was it some days after the meeting was held?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, some days before the meeting.

President.—How was the request disposed of?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—His request was not allowed. He simply stated that the date fixed upon was inconvenient to him.

President.—Was he informed that his request could not be allowed?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, Sir.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know why these two official members, when they received the communication and when pointing out the omission of the date, could not have written at the same time for a change of date also. They could have done that.

President.—Are we to question their conduct?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—As a matter of fact, when he received the letters, he could have pointed out as in my case that the letters were received late, and that the date could not be changed. He did not do so.

President.—His action may be erroneous from your point of view; but he may be correct in his action.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I am just pointing out how the Excise Committee work is being done.

46. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to print and place on the table the letters addressed to the Diwan of Cochin on the 20th March and 7th May 1927 by a member of the Excise Committee and to state what action has been taken in this matter by the Government, and what reply has been sent to the member concerned, and whether the file referring to this matter will be placed on the table?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Copies of the letters referred to and of the reply dated 30th June 1927 are placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix VIII.*)

The letter of the 20th March was referred to the Superintendent of Excise Revenue. He replied to say that no differential treatment between member and member was shown by him, nor did he fail to accord proper treatment to Mr. Mathew.

Government do not consider it necessary to place their whole file on the table.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In reply to the question dated, 30th January 1927, the Member answered 'it is a matter of opinion'. May I know, Sir, what the answer is ?

Mr. T.K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, the question time is over.

President.—We shall finish this question and stop.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I refer to question No. 46. To my question, whether the members were given differential treatment the answer given is "it is a matter of opinion".

President.—That was his reply.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I say there was differential treatment, and the Member says it is a matter of opinion. The answer is not correct.

President.—What should be the correct answer ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I should get an answer from the Government.

President.—The Government thinks that the answer given is correct.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is a matter of opinion. It is in that aspect I am putting that answer to which I have been referred to.

President.—He says now also it is a matter of opinion. On a matter of opinion, no supplementary question should be put.

Is there no proper understanding ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not want to take up the valuable time of the Council.

47. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether any of the members of the Committee addressed on January 5, 1927, a letter to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman and the Convener of the Excise Committee complaining about the working of the Committee ; and, if so,

(b) whether a copy of it will be printed and placed on the table;

(c) whether the Superintendent of Excise Revenue returned it to the member in writing "I am not aware of any rule

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According to the resolution passed at the preliminary meeting of the Committee held on 27th May 1926, I was asked to prepare a memorandum generally on the following lines to form the basis of discussion before the report is prepared and submitted to the Government.

(a) Our goal too should be to work up to prohibition.

(b) To suggest ways and means to realise that ideal.

It was further resolved that copies of the memorandum should be circulated among the members of the Committee sufficiently early before the date of next meeting which should be in Kanni next.

My own view is that it is not advisable to deal with the Excise policy piecemeal, but that the subject in question should also be discussed and considered along with the other matters after the memorandum is prepared and circulated."

APPENDIX VIII.

(*Vide answer to Question No. 46.*)

Letter dated 20th March 1927, from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin.

"While once again, I beg to thank you for appointing me a member of the Excise Committee, it is with deep regret that I address you this letter which I hope will receive your early and earnest attention. It must have been abundantly clear to you from my correspondence with you directly and through the Chairman of the Excise Committee and from the answers given by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue who is the Convener of the Excise Committee, on behalf of the Government—for he is a Government member in the Legislative Council—to my interpellations in the last meeting of the Legislative Council, that he has been failing in his duty to accord a respectful treatment to some at least of the members of the Committee, and that he has been making differential treatment between member and member. When I accepted the offer of the Government to be a member of the Excise Committee, I never thought that there would be differential treatment between the members of the Committee, and that any Government official would treat discourteously any of the members of the Committee appointed by the Government and I must respectfully inform you now that I certainly cannot, consistent with my position, stand such differential and discourteous treatment. Add to this the fact that the Government appointed me a member of the Committee because I am an elected representative of the people in the Legislative Council. The honour and dignity of the members of the House is as dear to me as it must be to you as the President of the Council and the statements made in the open Council by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue cannot but be regarded as a slight to the members of the House and especially to those who are members of the Committee appointed by the Government. You are aware that this is not the first incident of the sort and that the representatives of the people will not coolly pocket such insults. Certainly no self-respecting member shall take such things lying down, and I made the open statement in the Council that I shall have to resign my membership from the Excise Committee as a protest to the treatment and the answers given, and am very sorry if you have not realised the situation fully and the import of such incidents. To speak personally, I beg to state that it is the duty of the Government that offered me the membership of the Excise Committee to call upon the official to make necessary amends and for the Government to disown that it is not the policy of the Government to accord discourteous and differential treatment to the members

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of the Committees appointed by the Government, and if that is not done, I beg to tender my resignation from the Excise Committee as a protest against the same.

I reserve to myself the right of publishing this letter."

(Signed.)
K. T. MATHEW.

P. S.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the above letter.

Letter dated 7th May 1927 from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin.

"I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the letter despatched to me on the 26th April 1927, by the Secretary to the Diwan, and am very sorry to note that the communication said to have been sent through the Chairman of the Excise Committee and referred to in para 1 of my letter dated 9th April 1927, has not been received by you. For your kind perusal and disposal, I beg to submit herewtih my letters, dated 5th and 14th January and 21st February 1927, and request you kindly to send me replies to them, as I now address them direct to you.

Pending your disposal of my resignation letter, dated 20th March 1927, I request you to arrange for sending me a clearly typed copy of the memorandum submitted to the Excise Committee by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue. I may be permitted to add here for your information that in my letter dated 14th January 1927 addressed to the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, I wrote as follows : 'The letter which I sent you about returning the memorandum by anchal or post still remains unanswered, and I am ready to return the memorandum on any day to you as soon as you let me know about the payment of the postage' (for returning the illegible copy of the memorandum sent to me); and please note, the reply of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue to the above was as follows : 'I am not concerned with the question as to how you should meet the postage of letters, etc., which you may have to send to the Convener of the Excise Committee, and it is not my duty to address the Government upon the point.'

I humbly request you once more, to favour me with an early reply to my communication, dated 20th March 1927.

As I am now staying in Madras, please address me to, 'The Oriental Buildings, Armenian Street, Madras.' "

Letter dated 5th January 1927, from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman of the Excise Committee through the Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

"The Superintendent of Excise Revenue writes on 12th Dhanu 1102 and informs that the Excise Committee meeting which was fixed to be held on the 19th and 20th instant (these dates were fixed by sending two notices to the members of the Committee) will not be held on those dates but will be held on the 4th Makaram and if necessary on the next day also. According to the first two notices sent to me, I had arranged my programme in such a way as to attend the meeting on the dates mentioned in those notices and in doing so I had to cancel my visit to Bombay to attend an important All-India Convention. Changing of the dates of the meeting makes it very difficult to fix one's programme. I shall be very glad if the Convener will kindly understand that the changing of dates upsets the programme of work of the members fixed upon.

Matters have come to such a stage as to seriously consider that it is worth-while and keeping with the self-respect of the members of the Com

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mittee appointed by the Government, to continue as members of the Committee. With a view to decide that I should continue to be a member of the Excise Committee, with the Superintendent of the Excise Revenue as the Convener of the Committee, I request you to inform me the reason or explanation:

(1) for not replying or at least acknowledging the receipt of letters sent by the members of, the Committee to the Superintendent of Excise Revenue who is the Convener of the Committee;

(2) for not convening a meeting of the Committee when two members of the Committee (Mr. M. K. Raman and I) had requested the Convener in writing to hold a meeting of the Committee (before the last budget session of the Legislative Council) to consider the question of abolishing the license-fee for tapping for sweet toddy, and not sending the members a reply, if the meeting could not be held for any reason;

(3) for not convening a meetting of the Committee in last Kanni as was resolved upon at the last meeting and thus setting aside the decision of the members of the Committee and also, for not informing the members that the Committee could not be held in Kanni as resolved upon for some reason or other;

(4) for not sending me a clearly typed copy of the memorandum prepared by the Excise Superintendent and which is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee, in spite of my request that the copy sent to me is not sufficiently clear enough for me to read and study; and

(5) further to state, how many members of the Committee in writing requested the Convener to change the dates originally fixed for the meeting.

I beg to inform that, until a satisfactory explanation is furnished on the above questions, I do not desire to attend the meetings of the Committee. Further, as the object of the next meeting—if I have correctly understood it—is to consider the memorandum prepared by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue as requested by the Committee, and as I have not received a clearly typed copy of it, it will only be wasting the public revenue by my going to attend the meeting and drawing the travelling allowance; and to do this I cannot be a party.'

I have already addressed the Government a letter containing the matter mentioned above and with some additional matter and this I am informed is forwarded to the Chairman of the Committee. I am waiting for an official reply to it.

May I request you to favour me with an early reply?"

Letter dated 14th January 1927, from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman of the Excise Committee.

"The enclosed* you will be pleased to note was addressed to you through the Superintendent of Excise Revenue in his capacity as the Convener of the Excise Committee, but he returned it to me with this remark: 'I am not aware of any rule that letters sent by the members of the Excise Committee should be sent through me. I therefore return herewith the said letter to you.'

If no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming from the Convener of the Excise Committee and if the Chairman of the Committee and the Government are not willing to take any step in this matter, I beg to humbly state that the only course left open to me as a member of the Committee is to put in my resignation of the membership of the Committee. I request you to favour me with a reply."

(Sd.) K. T. MATHEW.

To the Diwan of Cochin,
Ernakulam.

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*My letter dated 5th January 1927. When it was returned by the Excise Superintendent with the above remarks, I forwarded it to you through the Chairman of the Excise Committee with the above letter for taking the necessary action in the matter.

Letter dated 21st February 1927 from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman of the Excise Committee.

"I have the honour to bring to your attention that I have not been supplied with a readable copy of the memorandum prepared by the Superintendent of Excise for the consideration of the members of the Excise Committee, in spite of the request I made to the Excise Superintendent to supply me with clearly typed copy of the momorandum, as I find it very difficult to read the copy of it sent to me. I request you to arrange for sending me a well-written or typed copy of the memorandum so that I may be able to do justice to the work entrusted to me as a member of the Committee; and in conclusion I may submit that if such small facilities, as is now requested for, are not afforded, I regret to point out that I do not think that I could do useful work as a member of the Excise Committee."

Letter dated 30th June 1927, P. No. 559/02, from the Ag. Secretary to the Diwan to Mr. K. T. Mathew.

"With reference to your letter, dated 7th May 1927, I am directed to inform you that the points raised therein and in the enclosures to your letter are for the Chairman of the Excise Committee to consider and dispose of."

APPENDIX IX.

(Vide answer to Question No. 47).

Letter, dated 8th Edavam 1102, from the Chairman of the Cochin Excise Committee to the Secretary to the Diwan of Cochin.

"With reference to your letter, R. O. C. No. 2427/1102, dated 14th May 1927, I have the honour to inform you that a letter was received by me from Mr. K. T. Mathew, but I did not forward it to the Diwan as such a letter need not have been sent through me. Prior to the receipt of that letter Mr. Mathew had sent another letter on the same subject to the Diwan direct and that had been forwarded to me for disposal. Subsequent to these Mr. Mathew personally delivered to me another letter, on the same subject, for transmission to the Diwan, and that was returned by me on the ground that he should send such letters to the Diwan direct, and he therefore took it back and addressed it to me changing the address. In the course of the conversation I believe—if my memory does not fail me—that I informed Mr. Mathew, that I did not forward the letter referred to in the reference with the reason thereof, and I did not think it therefore necessary to do anything further in the matter. The letter in question is preserved in my file."

APPENDIX X.

(Vide answer to Question No. 48).

Copy of letter C. No. 24/01, dated 19th Kanni 1102 sent to Mr. K. T. Mathew, B. A. & B. L., by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

'With reference to your card dated 29th September, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the memorandum prepared by me, I have the honour to inform you that the copy was examined by me and found to be readable or else it would not have been sent to you. If, however, you still require a fresh copy, I shall be glad to supply you with one, provided you return the copy already sent."

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